

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst bed combination comprising a bed of a particulate copper-containing catalyst and, upstream of the catalyst bed, a guard bed of shaped units wherein the guard bed shaped units are formed from by mixing lead oxide particles and a mixture of two or more particulate support material hydrated aluminas.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the shaped units are formed from a composition containing a processing aid.
5. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the shaped units have a lead content of 5 to 75%, by weight of lead (expressed as metal).
6. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the shaped units have a lead content of 30 to 75%, by weight of lead (expressed as metal).
7. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4 wherein the shaped units are formed from lead oxide, hydrated alumina and graphite.
8. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the lead oxide used to form the shaped units has an average (by weight) particle size below 50  $\mu\text{m}$
9. (Currently Amended) A process for performing a catalytic reaction using a bed of a copper-containing catalyst, comprising passing a process gas through a guard bed of shaped units and then passing said gas through the bed of copper-containing catalyst wherein the guard bed shaped units are formed from particles of by mixing lead oxide particles and a mixture of two or more particulate support material and then passing said process gas through the bed of a copper-containing catalyst hydrated aluminas.